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| Notice of Allowability | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 10/005,641 | MALIK ET AL. | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Kristin D. Sandoval | 2132 | |

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to communications filed August 7, 2006.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-27.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments, see pg. 13, 1st paragraph, pg. 14, 2nd paragraph, pg. 16, 1st paragraph, filed August 9, 2006, with respect to claims 1, 9 and 15 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The rejections of claims 1, 9 and 15 have been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claim1-27 allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regard to claims 1, 9 and 15:

Amendments to the claims overcome the prior art rejections made in the previous action. The prior art of record (Clark, U.S. 6,442,588 and Gross US Application 09/863,060) discloses checking to see if a customer has a valid email address and also checks to ensure that the recipient of the customer's email has a valid email address. Gross and Clark fail to teach in response to receiving outgoing SMTP traffic checking to see if the sender's IP address is associated with a valid IP address and if it is logging the sender onto the email server using the IP address and plurality of data used to authenticate the sender.

None of the other references cited in the prior action combine with Clark and Gross to disclose the limitations.

An updated search did not uncover any new prior art not owned by the same assignee of the instant application. No art disclosing, nor motivation to combine has been found which recites checking whether the sender is associated with a valid IP address upon receiving outgoing SMTP traffic at the email server and then logging the sender on using the IP address and then sending the email only if the sender is associated with a valid IP address. In the art of blocking unsolicited email it is most prevalent to check to see if the recipient's email address is valid or the sender's email address.

All other pending claims are dependent on allowable claims 1, 9 and 15 and are allowable for that reason.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristin D. Sandoval whose telephone number is 571-272-7958. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Kristin D Sandoval
Examiner
Art Unit 2132

KDS
KDS

Gilberto Barrón Jr.
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